

Unchanged Claim 1:

1. In a device for bi-directionally communicating with a remote site, a method for providing warning of impaired communication, comprising the steps of:
retrieving a communication parameter value from memory;
comparing said retrieved parameter with a predetermined threshold to identify an excessive communication parameter value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and
initiating substantially periodic transmission of a message to said remote site indicating a system adjustment is necessary, in response to said comparison.

Unchanged Claim 2:

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein
said message includes said parameter value.

Unchanged Claim 3:

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein
said parameter represents transmission upstream power level for communicating from said device to said remote site.

Unchanged Claim 4:

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein
said device is a cable modem and said transmission uses simple network management protocol(SNMP), and including the step of
comparing said retrieved parameter with minimum and maximum predetermined threshold values.

Unchanged Claim 5:

5. A method according to claim 1, including the step of receiving said predetermined threshold value from said remote site.

Unchanged Claim 6:

6. A method according to claim 5, including the step of using a default predetermined threshold value prior to said receiving of said predetermined threshold value from said remote site.

Unchanged Claim 7:

7. A method according to claim 5, including the step of configuring said device with said received predetermined threshold during an initialization operation.

Unchanged Claim 8:

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of initiating substantially periodic transmission of said message comprises initiating transmission on one of, (a) a schedule, and (b) a repetition frequency, received from said remote site.

Unchanged Claim 9:

9. A method according to claim 1, including the step of using default schedule or repetition frequency values prior to receiving said schedule or repetition frequency values from said remote site.

Unchanged Claim 10:

10. A method according to claim 1, including the step of terminating transmission of said message upon said comparison step indicating said retrieved parameter no longer exceeds said predetermined threshold.

Unchanged Claim 11:

11. A method according to claim 1, including the step of displaying at least one of, (a) said parameter, (b) said predetermined threshold and (c) repetition frequency of said periodic transmission, in response to a user command.

Unchanged Claim 12:

12. A method according to claim 11, including the step of generating a web page for said displaying of said at least one of, (a) said parameter, (b) said predetermined threshold and (c) repetition frequency of said periodic transmission.

Unchanged Claim 13:

13. In a device for bi-directionally communicating with a remote site, a method for providing warning of impaired communication, comprising the steps of:
retrieving a communication parameter value from memory;
comparing said retrieved parameter with a predetermined threshold to identify an excessive communication parameter value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and
initiating substantially periodic transmission of a message including said parameter value to said remote site indicating a system adjustment is necessary, in response to said comparison.

Unchanged Claim 14:

14. A method according to claim 13, including the step of receiving said predetermined threshold value from said remote site.

Unchanged Claim 15:

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein said parameter represents transmission upstream power level for communicating from said device to said remote site.

Unchanged Claim 16:

16. In a modem device for bi-directionally communicating with a remote site, a method for providing warning of impaired communication, comprising the steps of:
retrieving a transmission power level value from memory;
comparing said retrieved transmission power level value with a predetermined threshold to identify an excessive transmission power level value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and
initiating substantially periodic transmission of a message including said transmission power level value to said remote site indicating a system adjustment is necessary, in response to said comparison.

Unchanged Claim 17:

17. A method according to claim 16, including the step of terminating transmission of said message upon said comparison step indicating said transmission power level value no longer exceeds said predetermined threshold.

New Claim 18:

18. A device for providing warning of impaired communication in a system in which said device is bi-directionally communicating with a remote site, said device comprising:
means for retrieving a communication parameter value from memory;

means for comparing said retrieved parameter with a predetermined threshold to identify an excessive communication parameter value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and

means for initiating substantially periodic transmission of a message to said remote site indicating a system adjustment is necessary, in response to said comparison.

New Claim 19:

19. The device of claim 18, wherein said message includes said parameter value.

New Claim 20:

20. The device of claim 18, wherein said parameter represents transmission upstream power level for communicating from said device to said remote site.

New Claim 21:

21. The device of claim 18 in which said device is a cable modem and said transmission uses simple network management protocol (SNMP), said device further comprising:

means for comparing said retrieved parameter with minimum and maximum predetermined threshold values.

New Claim 22:

22. The device of claim 18, further comprising:

means for receiving said predetermined threshold value from said remote site.

New Claim 23:

23. The device of claim 22 further comprising:
means for using a default predetermined threshold value prior to said receiving of said predetermined threshold value from said remote site.

New Claim 24:

24. The device of claim 22, further comprising:
means for configuring said device with said received predetermined threshold during an initialization operation.

New Claim 25:

25. The device of claim 18, wherein said means for initiating substantially periodic transmission of said message further comprises:
means for initiating transmission on one of, (a) a schedule, and (b) a repetition frequency, received from said remote site.

New Claim 26:

26. The device of claim 18 further comprising:
means for utilizing default schedule or repetition frequency values prior to receiving said schedule or repetition frequency values from said remote site.

New Claim 27:

27. The device of claim 18, further comprising:
means for terminating transmission of said message if said means for comparison indicates that said retrieved parameter no longer exceeds said predetermined threshold.

New Claim 28:

28. The device of claim 18, further comprising:
means for displaying at least one of, (a) said parameter, (b) said predetermined threshold and (c) repetition frequency of said periodic transmission, in response to a user command.

New Claim 29:

29. The device of claim 28, further comprising:
means for generating a web page for said displaying of said at least one of, (a) said parameter, (b) said predetermined threshold and (c) repetition frequency of said periodic transmission.

New Claim 30:

30. A modem comprising:
means for retrieving a transmission power level value from memory;
means for comparing said retrieved transmission power level value with a predetermined threshold to identify a transmission power level value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and
means for launching a message, said message indicating that a system adjustment is necessary, to a remote site should said transmission power level be at a value indicative of a potential communication link impairment.
